REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED C.I.A. CONNECTIONS WITH JACK ANDERSON'S FILM 'RAJIV'S INDIA'

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to make a special mention of a matter of great concern about the reported CIA connections of 'Rajiv's India.' This film, called 'Rajiv's India, has gained sufficient notoriety in the past few days. Reports have appeared that this film has bee made by people who are directly connected with the CIA. These raise questions which need to be expressed in the House so that the Minister can reply. I am given to understand that the company that made the film 'Rajiv's India, is owned by a former CIA boss, Mr. Max Hugel, who is the owner and President of the International Syndication Inc., and it is this company, International Syndication Inc., that has actually made the film. Mr. Hugel was the Deputy Director of CIA, was in charge of clandestine operations, and he continues to be a close associate and friend of the current CIA Director, Mr. William Colby. In fact, Ms. Barbara Newsman who is the Vice-Chairman of this company, claims that she was actually the producer of the entire TV operation and that it is wrong to presume 'Rajiv's India' as Mr. Jack Anderson's film because Mr. Jack Anderson only lent his voice, as the host and consultant advising this company, this International Syndication Inc.. There are some additional aspects of this seamy film which need to be voiced in the House.

First, I am given to understand that this Mr. Jack Anderson, when encouraged by this Company, which has CIA connections, was treated almost as a State guest by this Government of India; he was feted, entertained, provided all facilities, cooperation and encouragement by this Government of India. More alarming than that is that Mr. Jack Anderson was actually taken around our nuclear power stations and nuclear power plants and other nuclear installations. It is also believed that this Mr. Jack Anderson was permitted to visit military stations. It is well enough known in the House as indeed outside this country that this film received a tremendous media build up: a great degree of expectation was aroused that a great film was going to arrive on the Indian television scene and then at the last minute, in a fashion and manner which is typical of this Government, it was suddenly withdrawn from being shown.

Therefore, I would like to ask with your permission the following specific questions and would expect that this matter being as serious as it is, the Government would come forward with early response, if possible in the House itself.

My first query is whether the antecedents of this International Syndication Incorporated, the Company which has actually made the film were ever checked. If they were checked, by whom were they checked? If they were not checked, why were they not checked? And if they were checked by some department of the Government of India, what were the conclusions of that department?

My second question is whether doubts were ever raised about this Company and its CIA connection by any department of the Government of India that this Company called International Syndication Incorporated, which has made this now famous-infamous "Rajiv's India', and which we have not been shown despite all the media build up. And if doubts were raised, what was done about them?

My third specific question is whether Mr. Jack Anderson, who lent his voice to this film and who played as a host and interviewed a great number of luminaries of the treasury benches was entertained by the Ministry of External Affairs and other departments of the Government of India? If he was entertained, when, how and why?

My next question is: was Mr. Jack Anderson taken around any nuclear installations, any nuclear power plants, any military stations, cantonments or other military installations?

My final question is that despite knowing that there was a CIA connection with this company, despite entertaining, looking after Mr. Jack Anderson and giving a sort of build up that this film was good and after it had been premiered in India by Reuter why was it not shown on Doordarshan? This is a matter of considerable importance and seriousness. If a film in which the Prime Minister grants interview, is reported to be closely connected with a CIA company then it is deserving of the utmost urgent attention by this Government of India. I would therefore, like to have a reply about this affair inside this House itself.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): May I just add one or two more sentences? In view of the recent disclosures of many cases of espionage in our country, the question that hon. Member Jaswant Singh has raised are extremely serious. We naturally want that the entire House be seized of the problem and a fullfledged discussion should take place in terms of media failure as well as the doings of Jack Anderson and our Government as reported by Shri Jaswant Singh.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Sir, the Home Minister may be asked to make a statement on this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (RAJYA SABHA) (SHRI SITARAM KESARI): The hon. Member has been allowed to make a special mention. If we consider it now we will be supporting that part.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: There is no question of supporting or opposing. It will not even take much time of the House. Before coming to a categorical conclusion on the very question, the Government should make clear the facts. They should inform the House. It is a serious matter and a lot of questions have been raised on this issue.

REFERENCE TO THE CANCELLATOIN OF SCREENING OF THE FILM "NEW DELHI TIMES" BY DOORDARSHAN

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the withdrawal of the screening of "New Delhi Times" from the network of Doordarshan after having announced its screening for Saturday. Sir, the various measures taken by the I & B. Ministry to involve itself in either promoting a film, as stated a little earlier which had connections with CIA, or tampering with a film which is a tribute to the investigative journalism is a sad commentary on the working of the politics in this country. What is intriguing is that the I & B Ministry through Doordarshan network announced the screening of "New Delhi Times" on Saturday and some excerpts were shown. Not only that it was built up over a period of three or four days in the various stations of Doordarshan about the film. But once it was withdrawn there was not even a word of apology from Doordarshan. And no reason was given as to why the film was withdrawn? Sir, as a result of this, certain serious doubts arise in the minds of the Members of Parliament, the Journalists and the public in general with regard to the functioning of the I & B Ministry. Sir, I have a report which appeared in "Statesman" about this. If we look at the comments made by several important officials in the I & B Ministry regarding the withdrawal of the film, it makes a very interesting